



MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 4, NO. 22

JUNE 3-9

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

HAWK FACES KNIFE; OUT 6-8 WEEKS

STAMFORD CT---Road Warrior Hawk (Joe Hegstrand) will be idle until late July or early August after facing surgery.

Hawk is said to have suffered from a herniated disc and doctors estimate he'll need six to eight weeks to recover.

During his absence on the WWF circuit, Animal (Mike Laurinidas) will wrestle Brian Knobbs and Jerry Saggs of the Nasty Boys in singles contests.

GORDON SOLIE BUMPED FROM WORLD WIDE

ATLANTA---Veteran wrestling commentator Gordon Solie will be dropped as color announcer from WCW WORLD WIDE WRESTLING as soon as a replacement is named.

WCW executive vice president Jim Herd told MATWATCH, "It's nothing against Gordon but that team (of Tony Schiavone and Solie) just doesn't mesh and it doesn't take a genius to see it."

Herd said he was auditioning replacements and told MATWATCH Solie's successor would not be anyone currently on staff, though he would not name any of the candidates. Solie is expected to continue on the POWER HOUR's Wrestling News Network and possibly as an events coordinator.

VINCE CONSIDERS PAYING FOR EXCLUSIVITY

LOS ANGELES---Key media sources say WWF owner Vince McMahon is pitching at least 15 key markets bonus payments in exchange for station exclusivity of WWF syndicated shows.

The McMahon plan is quietly being marketed to larger-market stations where Titan and WCW shows are on the same channel.

WWF programs are currently syndicated to 229 stations while WCW shows are seen on 162 outlets in the U.S.

Veterans Refuse Vince

"LEGENDS OF WRESTLING" MAY BE STILLBORN

ST. LOUIS---Vince McMahon's effort to promote a "Legends of Wrestling" minispectacular as part of an upcoming WRESTLEFEST at Busch Stadium in St. Louis is in jeopardy after a host of veterans have refused to participate.

The biggest blow came last midweek when six-time NWA world heavyweight champion Lou Thesz rejected a bid to appear. Thesz informed World Championship Wrestling chief Jim Herd of his plans after telling the Titan office. McMahon brought together a number of past stars five years ago for an old-timers' battle royal. What is unclear is whether the "Legends" evening would include another battle or simply crowd recognitions.



Steve
Beverly

Among those who have also pooh-poohed WWF invitations were former seven-time NWA champion and WWF king Harley Race, Dick the Bruiser and former two-time NWA champion Jack Brisco. Race and Bruiser have agreed to be special referees at a WCW show at the St. Louis Arena next Friday. Ex-NWA champ Dory Funk Jr. has been invited but reportedly has not responded. Former NWA champion/owner

Verne Gagne was said to be asked but declined. By Sunday, unofficial word was Titan is in limbo on proceeding with "Legends" after the turndowns.

Former WWF champion Bruno Sammartino reportedly was not on the list of invitees. As of Thursday, Sammartino, who still acts as color commentator on Herb Abrams' Universal Wrestling Federation cable shows, had also passed on invitations to appear on two WCW dates July 3 and 29 in the New Jersey Meadowlands during the summer. "I don't know whether he didn't feel we offered him enough, or if Herb's told him he can't do the UWF any more if he appears with us," said Herd from his Atlanta office Thursday. Reportedly, another WCW insider and a former WCW announcer close to Sammartino were working late in the week to salvage Bruno for the WCW dates.

If "Legends" is stillborn, it will not kill WRESTLEFEST. McMahon plans to tape the show for home video sales and the card will be loaded for the WWF's first attempt at an outdoor show in St. Louis. But key analysts say it chips away at the self-perpetuated McMahon image as the czar of wrestling. "This has nothing to do with WWF vs. WCW," says a top insider. "It shows that while Vince has been an enormous success, he's also made a ton of enemies. And a lot of these old-timers are so incensed with what Vince has done to wrestling, they just don't want to work for him, even for one night."

Midwest ring newspaper columnist Mike Arnett, who follows all promotions, says, "Too many of the veterans want and need the payday and still want the adulation---same as the seniors tour of the PGA. For this many guys to say no, it doesn't take a genius to figure it out."

Titan Sports has never officially announced the "Legends" element of WRESTLEFEST. Insiders say the company is trying to soft-pedal the rejections and the public relations arm of Titan will never acknowledge its plan if the old-timers element is canceled. The outdoor card will be top-lined by a Hulk Hogan-Sgt. Slaughter WWF title match main event with Randy Savage as referee.

MATWATCH

Page 2

Vol. 4, No. 22/June 3-9

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

RICH DANIEL, 12240 BOND ST., WHEATON MD 20902, has 224 wrestling magazines (1971-1990) for sale. All are \$1 each. Rich will deal with you if you want to buy in bulk.

RIP ROGERS, 189 MARSHALL DR., SEYMOUR IN 47274 (812) 522-4944, continues to be available for any independent dates.

JOHN H. LANIGAN, P.O. BOX 583, McKEESPORT PA 15134, has a new list of tapes in his catalog available. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the list.

ANTHONY NEWTON, 1601 ALLEN LANE #36, TEXARKANA TX 75501, is interested in tapes of any WWF or WCW event dating back to 1980. He's also seeking the old UWF, Mid-South and old World Class and Memphis tapes.

SCOTT PASSNER, 56 HICKORY CT., JAMESBURG NJ 08831, and MIKE KIZOULIS, 156 AOTH AVE., ISELIN NJ 08830, have a joint tape list available. They will trade. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the list.

I am interested in anyone who can supply me with the UIW show from WBAL/Baltimore, or the UWA show which has just premiered on cable in New Jersey. Write me at the MATWATCH address.

ROSS DEBUTS WITH PAUL E.

ATLANTA---The ice is broken but WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING host Jim Ross was challenged by a number of callers on the premiere of THE JIM ROSS WRESTLING SHOW Sunday night on WSB-AM.

Ross and opening night guest Paul E. Dangerously exchanged their usual wit and repartee. But more than half of the call-in listeners asked WWF-related questions.

One northern-based caller asked about at least six personalities who have jumped from the WCW to the WWF in recent years and questioned why. As part of Ross' response, the emcee said: "I guess it just gets too competitive for some of these guys." Dangerously answered: "I managed Mean Mark Callous and he got beat by Lex Luger and decided to leave for the WWF. Sid Vicious got beat by Lex Luger and left for the WWF. Maybe that tells you something."

YOU SAID IT!!!

I really like Gordon Solie, "the dean of wrestling." Is it true that on WCW TV Gordon and Tony Schiavone sit at ringside or does it just look like it? I would like to see this continue---this way of announcing---instead of the garbage jokes that the WWF does. What is your opinion of the TV situation?

MIKE LEHMAN
RANDALLSTOWN MD

(FSB: Mike, Gordon and Tony have reverted to the live ringside style since Dusty Rhodes returned to WCW but the team (see THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES) is being split. I delved into the TV situation two weeks ago but we'll do more soon.)

I don't know what to make of the (Jim) Hellwig story yet. All this time, I thought he was a "respectable" heterosexual role model---being married to a Texas stripper, and all. Looks like McMahon has another Adorable Adrian Adonis or Genius to exploit. Funny how they make up phony homosexual characters and then cover up the real ones.

VIC STANLEY
LAFAYETTE IN

I was a participant on the GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM and would like to let you know what happened to me. As you can see by the enclosed phone bill, I called four times. The reason being that the JAM kept hanging up on me at 10-minute intervals. On the fourth time, I was chosen to participate in the JAM and was told by some woman answering that my call would be free from this point forward. \$28.10 for a free call is not too good where I come from.

JOHN MARTINEZ
ALBUQUERQUE NM

(FSB: John called the JAM the night Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller and I were on with Jim Herd. I have forwarded a copy of bill to Herd.)

I was very upset with WCW on 5/25. I drove three and a half hours each way to see WCW and we had no-shows (Pillman, JYD, Spivey, Tim Horner) and mostly Bob Geigel's guys worked. WCW did terrible here in the Midwest. Wrestlers not too happy to be here and those three shows had nothing exciting. I sure wish WCW could get its act together.

BRUCE GRUMMERT
LINCOLN NE

You quoted an unnamed WCW official a few weeks back about the increasing no-shows again. Is this a trademark of Dusty Rhodes promotions? I went to the Kansas City show and four guys weren't there. We were stuck with the locals. I'm not spending that kind of cash again. Are you listening, Jim Herd?

CHUCK BRISSETTE
KANSAS CITY KS

Please stop trying to make pro wrestling adhere to a perfect world philosophy of no stereotypes. The nature of wrestling itself presents the stereotypes in such a way that the satirizing effect lampoons the prejudices promoted by the stereotypes. I know you don't agree but that makes the world interesting.

JOE GILLESPIE
SAN JOSE CA

MATWATCH

Page 3
Vol. 4, No. 22/June 3-9

TV TEMPO

May 27-June 2

(AAWP) - [Debut]: (AAWP TITLE) Big O d. Michael J. Starbuck to win belt when the Georgia Renegade assists; (6-MAN TORNADO CAGE MATCH) Kareem Muhammad (Ray Candy)/Dr. Love/Dave Michaels d. Moondog Spot/Ga. Renegade/Mercenary I. BOMB.
[Last Week]: Starbuck d. The Punisher; Big O d. Jimmy Fargo; Joel Deaton d. Dirty Gambler. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Astro Boy/El Guerrero Samurai d. Los Invasores del Norte I & II 2-3 falls w. 3rd fall countout; Tiburon/El Volador/El Misterioso d. Jaque Mate/El Hijo del Gladiador/Sep-tiembre Negro 2 straight; Atlantis/Octagon/Kato Kung Lee I d. El Brazo/El Brazo de Oro/El Satanico 2-3; (BATTLE ROYAL/CMLL WORLD HWT. TITLE TOURNEY) Eliminated: Universo Dos Mil, Casa-nova el Vampiro Canadiense, El Egipcio, El Brazo de Plata; Adv-ancing: Konnan el Barbaro, Black Magic, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, El Rayo De Jalisco Jr.; Fabuloso Blondy/Nitron/El Perro Aguayo d. Ringo Mendoza/Lizmark/El Pirata Morgan 2-3. BOMB-PLUS.

(ALL-JAPAN) - [5/13]: (ALL-ASIAN TAG TITLE) Doug Furnas/Dan Kroffat d. New British Bulldogs to win belts; (6-MAN) Mitsuha-ra Misawa/Toshiaki Kawada/Kenta Kobashi d. Jumbo Tsuruta/Akira Taue/Masanobu Fuchi. POWERSLAM-PLUS.
[5/20]: (6-MAN) Abdullah the Butcher/Giant Kimala I & II d. Taue/Mighty Inoue/Yoshinari Ogawa; (PRO WX NEWS) State Police d. Joel Deaton/Richard Slinger; Steve Williams/Terry Gordy d. Toshiaki Kawada/Kenta Kobashi; Misawa/Tsuyoshi Kikuchi d. Tsuruta/Fuchi. PILEDRIIVER.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Rockers d. Al Burke/Bob Bradley; Bossman d. Tom Stone; Nasty Boys d. Red Tyler/Buck Zumhofe; (SUPERTAPE) Bossman vs. Earthquake; (GUEST) Undertaker/Paul Bearer show caskets; (GUEST) Ricky Steamboat does fire exhibi-tion; (ANGLE) Rosatti sisters chase Paul Roma down halls & into audience; (UPDATE) Andre the Giant dumps Mr. Fuji's face in cake after manager's bid; Greg Valentine d. Frankie DePal-co; Col. Mustafa d. Gary Jackson; Bushwhackers d. Brooklyn Brawler/Dusty Wolfe; Barbarian d. Jake Roberts by countout when Earthquake chases Earthquake from ringside him w. Luci-fer; Legion of Doom d. W.T. Jones/Warren Bianchi. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Davey Boy Smith d. DeFalco; Tugboat d. Johnson; Nasty Boys d. Ricky Rice/Burke; I.R. Schyster d. Jackson; Virgil d. Brian Costello; Kerry Von Erich d. Bradley; Warlord d. Zumhofe. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: L.O.D. d. Jones/Bianchi; (UPDATE) Mountie at-tack on Bossman; Ted DiBiase d. Randy Fox; Kerry Von Erich d. Brawler; Earthquake d. Kevin Krueger; (ANGLE) Andre fools Jimmy Hart by saying he's not signing contract with the Mouth but 'Quake bashes Andre in knee w. megaphone & Rousimoff can't get up; Orient Express d. Dave Sigfritts/John Anderson; Under-taker d. Dan Robbins. BOMB-PLUS....Andre/Earthquake horrible.

(LPWA) - Denise Storm d. Alma Alvarez; Reggie Bennett d. LaGa-ta; Team America II (Heidi Lee Morgan/Comrade Orga) d. The Beast/Cheryl Day; Terri Power d. Nasty Kat LaRoux; Bambi/Mala-ya Hosaka d. Bad, Black & Beautiful; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Wally Karbo, who gets confused. DRAW.

(USWA) - [CHALLENGE]: Sweet Georgia Brown d. Madelyn Colleen; Jeff Jarrett d. El Grande Pistolero; Tojo Yamamoto/Little To-kyo d. Danny Davis/Karate Kid; Gary Young/Pvt. Terry Daniels d. Texas Hangmen by DQ. BOMB-PLUS.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Ben Jordan d. Rob Golden; (ANGLE) Eric Embry/Bill Dundee dispute over loser-leave-USWA match; Jarrett/Robert Fuller d. Jack Diamond/Gary Scott but Texas Outlaws ambush Jeff & Robert until they get chairs & chase heels; Hurricane Walker d. Scorpion; Eddie Gil-ber/Kevin Christo-pher double countout vs. Tom Prichard/Tony Anthony. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Most
See. PILEDRIIVER - Excel-
lent. POWERSLAM - Good.
DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD
- Fair. BOMB - Poor
PLUS - Midscale rating.

(IWCCW) - [RECAP]: Key matchups of 1991; (OTHER MATCHES) Mad-ison Brothers d. Equalizers; Tazmaniac d. Ted Streeter. BOMB.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Brute Force d. Brodie Chase/John Myers; (LPWA TITLE) Lady X d. Susan Sexton; (5-STAR) Sam Houston d. Hanging Judge; (CLASSIC) Bruno Sammartino/Dick the Bruiser d. Ernie Ladd/Baron Von Raschke; Chris Walker d. Eddie Sweat; (WWC) Miguelito Perez d. Eric Embry; Festus d. Billy Black by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Stan Lane d. Sheik Adnan al-Kaissie; (1985) Sgt. Slaughter/Black Jack Lanza d. King Tonga/The Superstar by DQ; (1984/AWA WORLD TITLE) Nick Bockwinkel d. Curt Hennig. DRAW.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Young Pistols d. Jim Boss/Doug Vines; (REPLAY) Foghorn Pillman decks, cross bodyblocks Barry Wind-ham; Windham d. Johnny Meadows but Magilla Pillman decks Barry after & steals his boot; P.N. News d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker; Stan Hansen d. Jamie McKinnon; (LARRY'S LEGENDS) Ricky Morton still mulling Alexandra York's contract; (GALOOB SEG) Paul E. dreams he puts whammy on Lex Luger's action figure; (VIDEO) Desperados; Morton d. Jeff Sword; (WCW TV TITLE) Bobby Eaton d. Arn Anderson by DQ to retain belt when Ric Flair runs in, pulls off belt, whips & chokes Bobby; (SUPERBRAWL) Sting-Nikita Koloff angle; Koloff d. Dave Johnson. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WORLD WIDE]: P.N.W. d. Rip Rogers; (SUPERBRAWL) Sting-Ko-loff; Sting d. Mike Samples; Morton d. Vines; (VIDEO) Despera-dos; El Gigante d. Bob Cook; Big Josh d. Paul Lee; Michael Hayes d. Steve Armstrong when Fantasia DDTs Steve during ref bump; Other winners: Stan Hansen/Dan Spivey. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Ron Simmons/El G d. Vines/Sword; Luger d. Randy Barber; Sting d. Lou Fabiano; Angel of Death d. Rick Ryder; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. P.N.W./Paul E. DANGER ZONE, P.N.W. d. Doug Gilbert, (WWE) Eaton/Dustin Rhodes vs. Ander-son/Terrence Taylor 4-way; Eaton/Rhodes d. Anderson/Taylor but Morton leaves after talk w. Alexandra; [DANGER ZONE] Morton considers York Foundation deal to Rhodes' dismay; P.N.W. d. Mike Thor. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Curtis Hughes d. Phillip Parrish; Wind-ham d. Tim McGuire but Rat Butler Pillman clotheslines Barry out after; (CLASH REPORT) Paul E. w. Flair-Eaton saga, Keiji Mutoh clips, Sting-Koloff angles; P.N.W. d. Al Steele; (MIS-SY'S MANOR) Morton says he'll "get back" on York contract; Johnny B. Badd d. Kip Abee; Eaton d. Jeff Stone; Koloff d. Rick Hardrock; (VIDEO) Desperados; Diamond Stud d. Ricky Nel-son; Steve Austin d. Chuck Coates; Big Josh d. Taylor by DQ when Hughes decks Josh w. glove but Rhodes saves; Black Blood d. Tommy Angel; (BULL DROP INN) One-Man Gang has tantrum when Jason Hervey sticks pins in Gang voodoo doll. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - [PIPKIN BLDG.] Tom Prichard/Miss Texas turn on Tony Anthony; Anthony d. Freezer Thompson; (ANGLE) Miss Texas

MATWATCH

Page 4

Vol. 4, No. 22/June 3-9

taunts Jerry Lawler & slaps him, so Lawler slaps her back; (PIPKIN) Embry d. Doug Gilbert w. Tojo's flag but Doug revives to deck Tojo & Eddie Gilbert grabs flag, creams Embry until Prichard runs in; Gilberts d. Scorpion/Chris Frazier; (PIPKIN) Fuller/Jarrett d. Tex Salenger/Master Blaster; (ANGLE) Fuller ambushed by Salenger/Blaster, posted & juices until Gilberts save; (6-MAN) Salenger/Blaster/Prichard d. Bill Dundee/Chris Candido/Jordan when Tom has foot on ropes but Dundee/Eddie/Fuller chase Salenger/Blaster w. chairs/trash can. RESTHOLD.

(SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE/KTMA) - Tommy Ferrara discusses broken arm vs. The Shocker; The Punishers & Golden Idol arrive & Mick Karch has to separate them from Ferrara. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Mick Karch/Baron Von Raschke, SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE, on early photo of Baron: (MK) "Is that a hairline I see there, Baron?" (BVR) "That's an early picture of Robert Redford." 2. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on Miss Texas: "Her teeth are kinda pretty---both of 'em." 3. Lawler, WMC, to Miss Texas on Tennessee women: "Their rear ends would make you a Sunday face." 4. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Jamieson: "He's the only person who's been embalmed and is still alive." 5. Paul E. Dangerously/Jim Ross, PH, on wrestling party: (PED) "It's Wrestlegate with special guest star Richard Nixon." (JR) "No, Tricky Dick's not gonna be there." (PED) "That's my dad: Tricky Dick Dangerously." 6. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU, on Sherri Martel: "We're trying to get her married to her own species." 7. Baron, SNR, on Karch: "He's got a very lovely wife and two beautiful kids. There's no accounting for the kids." 8. Mad Dog Vachon/Baron, SNR: (MDV) "Do you think Mick Karch would look good if he shaved his head?" (BVR) "I don't think Mick Karch would look good if he did anything to his hair." 9. Piper/Randy Savage, WWF-SU, on Dan Robbins in body bag: (RP) "What does his family think about this?" (RS) "He's a television star. He's got no gripes." 10. Paul E., WCW, on Black Blood: "We're going to see another graduate from Charles Manson Sr. High School."

11. Eddie Robinson/Heenan, PTW: (ER) "Let's see your rear double biceps." (BH) "My biceps aren't in my rear." 12. Dave Brown, WMC, on Texas Ranger: "He pulls off that 10-gallon hat, which is about five gallons short." 13. Paul E., WCW, on Johnny B. Badd: "He's probably married to Missy 'cause she be bad, too." 14. Piper, WWF-SU, on Undertaker: "That's why they say stay away from strangers, kid." 15. Savage, WWF-SU: "The Undertaker just beat Vice Versa." 16. Jamieson/Alfred Hayes, PTW: (J) "Are you making fun of me?" (AH) "Yes." (J) "I didn't say anything about your hair dye." 17. Paul E., PH, on Simmons: "He has more people after him than a band at a high school prom." 18. Paul E./Ross, PH: (JR) "I don't see a DANGER ZONE on tonight's broadcast." (PE) "Why? Are the Braves playing again?" 19. Heenan, PTW, on what's in Percy's urn: "I know her. Cleveland, '68." 20. Larry Zbyszko, WCW PRO: "It's hard to be humble when you're so great."

21. Diamond Dallas Page, WCW PRO, on P.N. News: "Lance, your granddaughter would love to go out with him." 22. Piper, WWF-SU, on Sherri: "Maybe her thighs don't jiggle too much." 23. Anonymous, MATWATCH HOTLINE: "Oz was enough to make the Dingdongs look like the Steiner Brothers."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Jim Brunzell, SNR: "The three best technical wrestlers in this business today are Curt Hennig, Ted DiBiase and Jake Roberts." 2. Roger Kent, SNR, on leaving AWA: "I left the same way as Jim Brunzell, Jesse Ventura and Hulk Hogan. We were all justified. How many lawsuits are pending today? Eight or nine?" 3. Ross/Paul E., PH, on Lou Fabiano: (JR) "He looks like the most obnoxious cab driver. I've never been to New York and had a cab driver that wasn't rude." (PE) "Louie's always been rude. I wonder what he's like in real life." 4. Lawler, WMC, on Miss Texas & Eric Embry: "We don't need garbage like that and speaking of garbage, we don't need you out here either."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Paul E./Ross, PH: (PE) "How do you think he'd look with green mist all over his face?" (JR) "Randy Barber? I don't think it'd hurt his appearance at all."

BEST PICTURES - 1. LPWA, Terri Power giving the Depends Tower of Power to Kat LaRoux. 2. PTW, Heenan doing double bicep. 3. PTW, Paul Bearer grinning & carrying urn. 4. WCW, Pillman taking off rat's head & clotheslining Windham. 5. WCW PRO, Magilla Pillman destroying Windham. 6. WCW, Eaton ripping at Jeff Sword's beard.

BEST AUDIO - 1. PH, Anderson admonishing Rhodes about "your old man." 2. PH, Taylor saying, "Mr. Hughes, do your job."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. ALP (Jamieson on Alfred Hayes). 2. MR. SENIORITY (Paul E. on Ross). 3. THE PRINCIPAL (Piper on DiBiase). 4. BIG BIRD (Piper on Brian Knobbs).

SEXIST REMARK - Heenan, PTW, on workout routine: "I get to the bank around 10:15...I chase her around the teller's desk."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. PH, Ross pitches to plug for WCW Saturday show and promo for BRUISE CRUISE appears. 2. PH, Hiroshi Hase's last name spelled HASI on CLASH lineup.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Michael St. John, WMC: "...blood thicker than water." 2. St. John, WMC: "...two peas in a pod." 3. St. John, WMC: "...have a rude awakening." 4. Eric Embry, WMC: "...to be the man, you gotta beat the man."

BOO AWARDS - 1. Lawler, WMC, for decking Miss Texas. I guess summer's coming and we're headed back to the men-deck-ing-women bits. Though the storyline had her provoking it, Jerry didn't have to slap her. DOUBLE BOO! 2. Page, WCW PRO. It may be his trademark but I wish somebody would stuff a roach in Page's mouth if he says "good God" one more time. 3. Kevin Sullivan, BULL DROP INN. I thought we'd long since buried "the lady of the third eye," but it's time for Ted Turner to get this devil worship crap off the air, once and for all.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

U.S./CANADA RATES

\$6 for 5 issues, \$12 for 11 issues, \$18 for 16 issues.

OVERSEAS RATES

\$9 for 5 issues, \$18 for 11 issues, \$27 for 16 issues.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.



STEINERS REIGN: Rick and Scott defeated Hiroshi Hase and Kensuke Sasaki in a rematch Friday night in Osaka for the IWGP tag titles. We're told the match topped the Tokyo Dome affair.

FULL HOUSES: That show was the Fujinami anniversary event and played to a full house of 14,500.

ANOTHER FULL HOUSE: All-Japan drew 16,000 for its Saturday night show and Baba is trending toward his major matches running 20 minutes or longer. That's what the Japan crowd appears to want now. I wish the American groups would study Baba as a measure of how to give people what they want.

A BIG HOUSE: Titan drew 11,000 paid at Rosemont Horizon in Chicago Friday night for Warrior-Undertaker on top. That's their biggest Chi-town house in a while and they're happy.

TUGBOAT SWINGS: Tugboat (Fred Ottman) is now known as Typhoon. He turned at WWF tapings Tuesday. He'll become the partner of Earthquake (John Tenta).

NO LOVE: Jim Herd says there's no truth to speculation of the recently-deposed WWF producer Bruce Prichard coming to WCW. Says Herd: "He's calling here. But so are a lot of people out of work."

UIW ON WJZ: The Baltimore-based indie circuit has signed a deal on the network affiliate. The UIW debuted Sunday morning at 1:30 a.m. and is also on several cable systems throughout the region.

NETWORKING: WORLD WIDE is averaging a 1.3 rating in its Saturday morning slot on KCAL in Los Angeles. That's better than the 0.9 lead-in and 1.0 lead-out.

KID'S CLUB: KCAL and WCW will do a tie-in promotion for the BASH through the station's 80,000-member Kid's Club. WCW also plans to begin simulcasting WORLD WIDE in Spanish in the L.A. market this fall.

THE SEQUEL: To their credit, WMC did not rerun the plastic bag angle with Robert Fuller Saturday but Embry had Tex Saligner and the Master Blaster double on Fuller at the announce table until he juiced.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: This was the first week kids were out of school and it was one of the weakest Memphis cards in recent memory. The Pipkin Building offered only five matches.

TOPLINING: Eddie and Doug Gilbert went against Embry and Tom Prichard and Prichard later returned in a grudge match against Tony Anthony. Jeff Jarrett & Fuller faced Saligner/Blaster in 2-3 falls, the Headhunter met Bill Dundee and Danny Davis put up the USWA light heavyweight title vs. Chris Candido in the opener.

THE TURN: Anthony turned face Monday before last when he tried to save Prichard from a loss against Hurricane Walker and wound up getting poked by Miss Texas (Deborah Seawright).

SLAP IN THE FACE: I can't let Saturday's WMC show go by without one further comment. There are those who say "that's

just Memphis." But the angle where Jerry Lawler retaliated against Miss Texas' slap by popping her across the face and decking her is a sad commentary on this promotion. We went through a whole summer last year of Anthony beating up Tessa. I sincerely hope Lawler does not fall into that trap but Saturday's show was not a positive step.

COMING BACK: Lawler will be back in action next week after a six-week layoff from disc problems in his neck. But he's playing with his softball team three times this week, including one date in Union City TN.

TITLE STRIPPED: Ken Patera has been stripped of the UWA heavyweight title. Patera told UWA president Dennis Galamb he was unhappy with his role in the group. We're told the split is amicable and Patera could still work UWA dates. The belt will go up in a tourney for the New Jersey-based group.

FAIR TIME: UWA announced a sellout for its Daisy Spring Fair date in East Brunswick NJ. Heidi Lee Morgan kept the UWA ladies title against Rusty Thomas and Nikolai Volkoff d. Honky Tonk Man in the main event by DQ.

WILD WEST: UWA tapes again July 19 at Wild West City in Netcong NJ. Tickets are available by calling (908) 752-6161.

MIDWEST BOMBS: The Midwest swing for WCW was a disaster. Sioux Falls IA drew only 800, Waterloo was called a weak crowd, Omaha only 500 and Kansas City 840.

NO-SHOWS: One key WCW insider told me of his worry about this continuing to resurface and it upset some fans in Kansas City. Brian Pillman, Junkyard Dog, Danny Spivey and Tim Horner all no-showed and many of Bob Geigel's guys (T.C. Carter, Mike George, Rick McCord, Steve Ray) worked the show as subs.

SWITCHING PLACES: The BASH card in Kansas City Aug. 3 has been moved to Municipal Auditorium in downtown K.C. from Kemper Arena.

PAGE SAFE: Even though Jim Herd was displeased with Diamond Dallas Page's performance and language at SUPERBRAWL, Herd told us Page is safe as WCW PRO color commentator.

SLIM OR NONE?: A MEMORIAL DAY MAYHEM Sunshine Wrestling Alliance card drew 50 people in Tampa. The Dynamite Express defeated the Nuclear Express on the show. Boris Malenko's UWF drew 175 for a show toplined by Nasty Ned Brady at Jackson Springs School Saturday night.

DEBUTING: Not only did UIW begin its TV exposure this week in the Baltimore area, it will be running an arena show June 15. We'll list its cable exposure in TUBE TALK.

THE MYSTERY NAME: I've had some people ask if WCW was going after Jesse Ventura, since Jim Herd said Gordon Solie's WORLD WIDE replacement is not within the company. I doubt it but Herd would not acknowledge any names.

A HELPING HAND: Larry Katz, he of THE LARRY KATZ SHOW on WCBM/Baltimore, did some fundraising for the children's wing of Johns Hopkins Hospital on the Children's Miracle Network Telethon over the weekend.

REST OF THE MONTH: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING will be one-hour (8th, 22nd, 29th) and 90 minutes (15th) for the rest of the month. MAIN EVENT and POWER HOUR stay intact.

Pinfall Profile

**HERD: "WE'RE STILL
PAYING FOR OLE"**

ATLANTA---World Championship Wrestling executive vice president Jim Herd says the recent ratings decline for TBS ring shows is due in part to "what we've done to ourselves" and to a residual effect from former booker Ole Anderson.

Speaking by telephone last Thursday from his Atlanta office, Herd addressed the four-week decline in late April and May from a peak rating of 2.8 to two-year lows of 1.7 and 1.9 for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING. The audience levels dipped as each week of the SUPERBRAWL pay-per-view approached.

"We beat the pay-per-view hype to death, in my view, and in the interim, I think it cost us viewers," said Herd. "This will probably get me in trouble with my people but you can't expect the viewers, particularly our hardcore audience to sit through that dreck, week after week."

Herd said after viewing the shows, he felt the announcers were "beginning to badger people about the SUPERBRAWL and after a while, you turn them off, particularly when they're the people most inclined to buy the pay-per-view."

The WCW boss believes the annual spring abridging of the Saturday night show by Atlanta Braves baseball and some pre-emptions on Sunday for Braves west coast games hurts audience loyalty. But he went on to say it's a plus to be adjacent to the Braves' games this year. "I'm not worried about the ratings from their standpoint," said Herd. "The Braves are off to a great start. Everybody in the company's excited and it's gonna be a very good seat to be near the Braves."

However, Herd thinks some of the audience turn-off is a spillover from discontent over Anderson. "I think we're still having a delayed effect from the Ole Anderson regime," said Herd. "The audience doesn't leave all at once from something like that but I knew we'd eventually pay the price for all of that stuff Ole put on the air and I think we have our work cut out to win some of those people back."

The WCW leader agreed some of the TBS and syndicated shows have become more focused under booker Dusty Rhodes but says that isn't enough. "Being a more focused show may be more interesting to the hardcore fan. But we're obviously not giving the total audience enough of what they feel is interesting. We have to look at all facets of our presentation. Besides, I'm not sure there's enough hardcore fans to satisfy or support any wrestling show," said Herd.

Herd told MATWATCH WCW would look at some format variations but says there's no way the group would ever emulate the skit/match format of PRIME TIME WRESTLING on USA Cable. "We would get fired if we used the low humor they (the WWF) use on USA," said Herd. "TBS would not tolerate it and I do not blame them. I look at it this way: we have certain guidelines for TBS that we're going to adhere to. If they want to make every body function in the world a subject to get a laugh, then that is an indication they have no limit to which they'll go to attract an audience. And that may say something for the standards of USA."

**PTW BACK
TO TOP;
OTHERS LOW**

**RATINGS
RAP**

In its final Tuesday night appearance, WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING vaulted back to the top of weekly Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending May 28.

PRIME TIME, fueled by guest appearances from Ricky Steamboat and Paul Roma, scored a 2.6 rating, up 18 per cent from the 2.2 scores of the previous two weeks, and a 4.2 per cent share of audience to lead the cable race.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, on top five of the last six weeks, dipped 15% to a 2.3 but managed to keep the runner-up slot.

WCW MAIN EVENT, after a week off, grabbed third in a week the three Turner shows continued to score low but register slight gains. WME only pulled a 2.2 rating, up 4% from two weeks ago, but the Sunday series drew a 6% share of audience, positive on a weekend when total TV viewing was sharply down.

A Dustin Rhodes/Ricky Morton vs. One-Man Gang/Terry Taylor finale bumped WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING back to a 2.0 for the first time in three weeks, up 5% from May 19.

POWER HOUR's 6% jump raised its numbers to 1.6, along with a respectable 7.6% share.

CABLE

Week Ending May 28	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 5/28)	2.6	4.2	1.47 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 5/26)	2.3	6.7	1.30 million
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 5/26)	2.2	6.0	1.26 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 5/25)	2.0	5.4	1.14 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 5/25)	1.6	7.6	915,200

TUBE TALK

Correction on UIW on WBAL/Baltimore: the show airs on Mondays at 1:30 a.m....UIW also airing on the following cables: Leesburg VA, Heritage (northern DE), Frederick MD....A new group appears in TV TEMPO: AAWP (All-American). It airs 10:30-11 a.m. Sundays (EDT) on WDSI/Chattanooga. It's a Rome GA-based group. Randy Adams and Ronald P. Gossett are the hosts....Wasn't the Andre-Earthquake angle just horrible? It reminded me of wheelchair victims being rolled out on telethons. I honestly believe Andre legit had trouble getting up....Can we not start a campaign to get Van Earl Wright of HEADLINE SPORTS off of those WCW town roll-calls? One, it's obnoxious. Two, you can't understand half he says. Three, if that's the pitcher, I wouldn't want to catch any of it.

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
221 Stowe Ave. #A-1
Troy, NY 12180
7/15/91

FIRST CLASS MAIL